

## Message Text

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11  
ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-13 DODE-00

AGR-20 EB-11 HEW-08 SR-02 ORM-03 PA-03 PRS-01 RSR-01

RSC-01 /149 W  
----- 110734

R 161720Z AUG 73  
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAOKO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7681  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJ: MALI DROUGHT COORDINATOR ASKS TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE  
FROM U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 156001; (B) BAMAOKO 2495

SECSTATE PASS TO DR. ADAMS

PARIS FOR RAICHT

ROME FOR FODAG

RECOMMENDATION: THAT U.S. SUPPLY 8 TEN TON TRUCKS AND 4  
AMBULANCES TO ASSIST DROUGHT VICTIMS SIXTH REGION.

1. MALI DROUGHT COORDINATOR, MINISTER DEFENSE DOUKARA, HAS  
WRITTEN LETTER AMEMBASSY JUSTIFYING REQUEST FOR 50 HEAVY  
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DUTY VEHICLES AND 30 HEAVY DUTY MILITARY AMBULANCES FOR USE

IN MALI'S SIXTH REGION. HIS ARGUMENT RESTS ON FOLLOWING POINTS:  
(1) ALMOST 250,000 DROUGHT VICTIMS HAVE MOVED TO CERCLES  
AND ARRONDISSEMENTS IN SIXTH REGION; (2) FROM MILITARY MOTOR  
POOL OF 100 TRUCKS SIXTH REGION ONLY 20 VEHICLES REMAIN OPERATING  
CONDITION; (3) POPULATION CENTERS SIXTH REGION ARE SCATTERED;  
(4) DROUGHT VICTIMS COLLECTING AT ARRONDISSEMENTS AND CERCLES  
SEVERELY DEHYDRATED, UNDERNOURISHED, AND SERIOUSLY ILL.  
DOUKARA STATES IT IS QUOTE URGENT EVEN VITAL UNQUOTE THAT  
MORE TRANSPORT BE PROVIDED ASAP THAT IT SERVES NO PURPOSE  
PROVIDE FOOD ASSISTANCE IF TRUCKING FACILITIES FROM AIRPORT  
LACKING.

2. COMMENT - INFORMATION RECEIVED BY EMBOFFICERS FROM SIXTH  
REGION OFFICIALS INDICATES THAT TIMBUKTU CERCLE WITH  
POPULATION 80,000 TO 100,000 HAS ONLY ONE TRUCK FOR  
DISTRIBUTION AND THAT REGIONAL CAPITAL GAO HAS 10-15 VEHICLES.  
UNDoubtedly CIVILIAN TRANSPORT AUGUMENTS BUT DOUKARA INSISTS  
PRIVATE TRUCKERS CAN'T AND WON'T USE THEIR VEHICLES FOR DESERT  
TRAVEL AND ONLY HEAVY DUTY ARMY VEHICLES ARE SUITABLE AND  
EFFICIENT. DOUKARA ALSO CLAIMS HE HAS INVESTIGATED POSSIBILITY  
LEASING VEHICLES WEST AFRICA BUT THAT TYPE NEEDED SIXTH  
REGION UNAVAILABLE. EMBASSY AWARE THAT WEST GERMANS  
SUPPLYING 10 VEHICLES WITH 120 TON CAPACITY AND THAT GOM  
INTENDED PURCHASE ABOUT 30 BERLIET TRUCKS FROM FRANCE. HOWEVER,  
DOUKARA CLAIMS NO DONOR COUNTRY HAS YET ENTIRELY MET HIS  
TRANSPORT NEEDS AND THAL 50 TRUCKS REQUESTED U.S. ARE IN  
ADDITION TO TRANSPORT BEING OBTAINED OTHER COUNTRIES. LT. TALL  
COMMANDANT CERCLE TIMBUKTU HAS SAID HE COULD HANDLE GRAIN  
DISTRIBUTION TIMBUKTU CERCLE WITH 4 TEN/TON TRUCKS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY BELIEVES NEED EXISTS FOR  
TRUCKS AND AMBULANCES CERCLE TIMBUKTU. SUGGEST AID GIVE  
URGENT CONSIDERATION SUPPLYING 4 FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE, FIVE  
TO TEN TON TRUCKS AND LEAST 2 FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE ARMY  
AMBULANCES WITH SPARE PARTS. BELIEVE THAT SAME NUMBER TRUCKS  
AND AMBULANCES COULD BE JUSTIFIED FOR GAO WHICH ADMINISTRATES  
EASTERN ZONE SIXTH REGION. IMPORTANT EMPHASIZE DOUKARA NOT  
DISPOSED PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION ALTHOUGH EMBASSY BELIEVES  
MORE COOPERATION MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING IF DEFINITE U.S.  
COMMITMENT MADE TO ASSIST WITH TRUCK AND AMBULANCE TRANSPORT.  
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HOWEVER IN ABSENCE DEFINITE PLEDGE SOME VEHICLES CONVINCED  
DOUKARA WILL REFUSE PROVIDE FURTHER JUSTIFICATION. SHOULD AMEM-  
BASSY'S REQUEST FOR 8 TRUCKS AND 4 AMBULANCES BE APPROVED THEN  
VISIT TRANSPORT SPECIALIST GOLING MIGHT BE PROFITABLE PIN  
DOWN GOM'S EXACT TRUCKING NEEDS AND TRANSPORT RESOURCES WHICH  
DOUKARA HAS NOT BEEN WILLING PROVIDE BEYOND GENERAL  
JUSTIFICATION DESCRIBED ABOVE.

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## Message Attributes

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